

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

I 8. (Previously Amended) A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

151 a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;

a pin attached to the hand of a skier;

an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and locking the pin to the ski pole grip;

an ejection mechanism;

an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip substantially above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip, so that the pin can insert horizontally into the channel and engage with the attachment mechanism while moving the ejection mechanism into a cocked position; and

a button extending from the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the attachment mechanism, the button depressible by a thumb on the hand of the skier disengaging the attachment mechanism from the pin causing the ejection mechanism to eject the pin horizontally from the channel out over a top end of the hand of the skier while said same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.

9. (Previously Amended) A quick release attachment system according to claim 8 wherein the ejection mechanism comprises a strap.

10. (Currently Amended) A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;

a pin connected to a glove of a skier, the pin having an end portion which includes a notch;

an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and

Response to Office Communication  
Attorney Docket No. 9717-4

2

Serial No. 09/140,831

I  
J1

releasably locking the pin to the ski pole grip; the attachment mechanism including:  
an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip;  
a retractable finger protruding across a portion of the channel, the pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging the notch with the finger; and  
a button on the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the finger, the button depressible by a thumb on the hand of the skier to retract the finger from the notch in the end portion of the pin, causing the pin to detach from the attachment mechanism and move out of the channel and toward a top end of the hand of the skier while same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip; and  
an ejection mechanism configured to eject the pin from the channel.

12  
11. (Currently Amended) A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;

a pin connected to a glove of a skier, the pin having an end portion which includes a notch;

an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and releasably locking the pin to the ski pole grip; the attachment mechanism including:

an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip;

a retractable finger protruding across a portion of the channel, the pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging the notch with the finger;

a button on the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the finger, the button depressible by a thumb on the hand of the skier to retract the finger from the notch in the end portion of the pin, allowing the pin to detach from the attachment mechanism and move out of the channel and toward a top end of the hand of the skier while same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip; and]

an elastic strap sized to length to connect the pin to the glove on the hand of the skier under tension so that, upon depressing the button, the strap can pull the pin out of the attachment mechanism; and

an ejection mechanism configured to eject the pin from the channel.

51 I 11  
12. (Previously Added) A quick release attachment system according to claim 10 in which the finger is moveable between a first position engaging the notch and a second position out of the notch, the attachment mechanism further including a spring biasing the finger into the first position.

END

18

J